



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Osamu UENO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2827

Application No.: 09/805,250

Examiner: T. Dinh

Filed: March 14, 2001

Docket No.: 108910

For: CIRCUIT BOARD DEVICE AND DESIGN SUPPORT DEVICE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement mailed February 11, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect Specie I, Figures 1 and 14-24, with traverse.

Claims 1 and 4-14 read on Specie I.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.

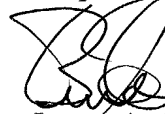
See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

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Although Applicants submit that the Election of Species Requirement should be withdrawn, Applicants also assert that claim 1 is generic to all Species. Therefore, should claim 1 finally be held allowable, Applicants assert that the remaining non-elected Species should also be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 7, 2002

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